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What's New



Yozora Tadehara and Keith Carter are our new GK-12 Fellows at MKNC. They joined us on July 1st and will be with us for a whole year! The GK-12 Program is a nationwide program funded by the National Science Foundation: we operate through a partnership with Boise State University. One purpose of the program is

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The 15th annual Salmon and Steelhead days event was a success. We hosted over 2000 students and BBQ attendance was strong. Thank you to all the volunteers that make SS Days possible.

to help scientists become better communicators by putting them into the classroom, but in our case, out of the classroom and into the world of Conservation Education.

Yozora is a Raptor Biologist whose work focuses on Sacer Falcons in Mongolia. Keith, otherwise known as Mike Ology or the Funguy, digs a little deeper in the plant world (literally). He researches mycorrhizae (that is fungus) on sagebrush roots here in Southern Idaho. Welcome Yozora and Keith!

A Blast from the Past



Now that was awesome! Bobby King, local baseball star, just paid us a visit. Bobby played for all three franchises, the Boise Pilots, the Yankees, and the Milwaukee Braves here when the Nature Center was Airway Park-a baseball field. Word has it, he was a great shortstop. He broke in with Cleveland in 1947 and played in the minors for 9 years, from 1947-1958 (with a three year "break" in the Marines from 1952-54). Bobby is now starting his 23rd year as a scout for the



2011 Photo Contest

Email Sara Focht for photo contest rules. Photos must be submitted by December 1, 2011.

sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov



Thanks to USFWS

Thanks to USFWS Dworshak National Fish Hatchery folks for providing the Clearwater B-run Steelhead, the taxidermy of which Bert Bowler funded.

Houston Astros. He played with Bob Uecker for crying out loud. He had stories and hitting tips and all kinds of cool stuff to share- baseball stuff! He knew all of the guys in the baseball photos on the greenbelt sign just outside of the MKNC- one of them was his best man. He also played with Gordy Williamson, a retired Boise dentist, now 91, who threw out the first pitch at a Boise Hawks game this year.

Bobby is just a real sweetheart. And... he loves what we've done with the place. What a great day!

Bert Bowler-a True Supporter!



Bert Bowler is a constant positive force. We thoroughly enjoy his unannounced and unpredictable visits; he pops in occasionally to borrow "Leo the lamprey" for a presentation he's giving or just to keep us up to speed on the state of Idaho's salmon or the state of the state.



Local Jewelry at MKNC!

One of our goals is to offer local, environmentally friendly products. Our latest additions include jewelry from local artists we found at the Capital City Public Market on 8th Street. Pictured here are a few pieces by Mike and Meaghan Goulder. We also now have elegant necklaces, bracelets and earrings by Loretta Pompeii.



Master Naturalist Class Starts in January

The Idaho Master Naturalist Program is an adult education and volunteer program for people who are interested in learning about nature and giving back to their community. Forty hours of education and 40 hours of service are required for certification. The Idaho Master Naturalist Program's Sagebrush-steppe Chapter in Boise is now

His visits always energize and amuse us; he is good for us. And, Bert gets it; he understands and appreciates the role of the Nature Center and the potential we have to educate and build relationships with the public. I think that's why he supports us spiritually and financially. He recently inspired and funded the taxidermy of a beautiful Clearwater B-run steelhead, C.B. mykiss he calls it. This is another step toward my personal goal of displaying every Idaho native fish (dead or alive) at the MKNC. With Bert's contribution, he offered these words "Thanks for all of the good work the MKNC does that contributes IDFG's mission to preserve, protect and perpetuate the fish and wildlife of the state of Idaho. An informed constituency will save the day. Don't ever give up!" Thanks Bert; You're the best.

Window Beautification-one step closer

As most of you know, we have been trying for several years to artistically enhance the concrete infrastructure around our viewing windows. The vision is to provide art and education on that expansive concrete surface. While we have not yet determined the specifics, we have some key elements in mind; the art must enhance, not detract from, the fish viewing experience and it must educate. As always, we rely on our donors to fund projects that are outside of our basic operating costs. Thanks several of our donors including, Willow Hahn, the Olsen/Pierose Family, the Chase Family,

accepting registration forms for the 2012 class. Email Sara Focht for program information at sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov.



Thanks to Ralph Schaeffer

Thanks to the ridiculously hard work of our own Ralph Schaeffer the Nature Center now has 50 new fence posts around its perimeter. Wildman Ralph set posts all summer and now our border looks beautiful.



Thanks to Mike!

the Schram Family and others, we are ready to make a run at this project. We will use the money we have, about \$7,000, to leverage the additional funding needed. Our long term goal is to "decorate" all of the viewing windows, but our first step will be to tackle the Alpine Lake venue, the largest and most popular of the fish viewing sites. Once adequate funding is in hand, we will begin soliciting proposals from local artists. Thanks all!

Chinook Salmon Have Come and Gone



From May to early September, the MK Nature Center receives Chinook Salmon that have returned from the ocean to Rapid River Fish Hatchery and the South Fork Salmon River (McCall hatchery program). These fish are an incredible addition to the Nature Center. Our customers love them and the fish give us the opportunity to discuss the biology, history, and cultural

Mike Webb, Idaho Master Naturalist and dedicated Nature Center Volunteer, helped us put together our new newsletter format. Thanks to Mike for all he does for us!

and economic importance of these amazing anadromous (sea-run) fish. Its fun, exciting, educational, and "appropriate" to have the fish here because salmon (and steelhead) are native to the Boise River; construction of the Hells Canyon dam complex cut these fish off from their native habitat. Our staff and customers get to witness the "final" stages of the salmon life cycle as the fish spawn and die here. After "death" the fish quickly deteriorate; the nutrients they brought from the ocean are quickly and efficiently "reconstituted" as insects, crayfish, birds, mink and other fish to name a few. Pictured here is a large, dead female Chinook and her eggs; although she didn't complete the process, like everything in nature, the eggs won't go to waste.

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